

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Proposed drawing corrections have been submitted separately herewith For Fig. 35, and Fig 38. Review and approval of the changes is earnestly requested.

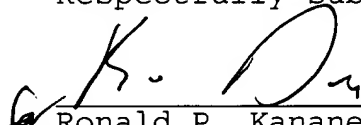
REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is filed to correct the specification.

If the Examiner has any suggestions for placing this application in even better form, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned and the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: November 20, 2001

 47,255-

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FIG. 38 PRIOR ART

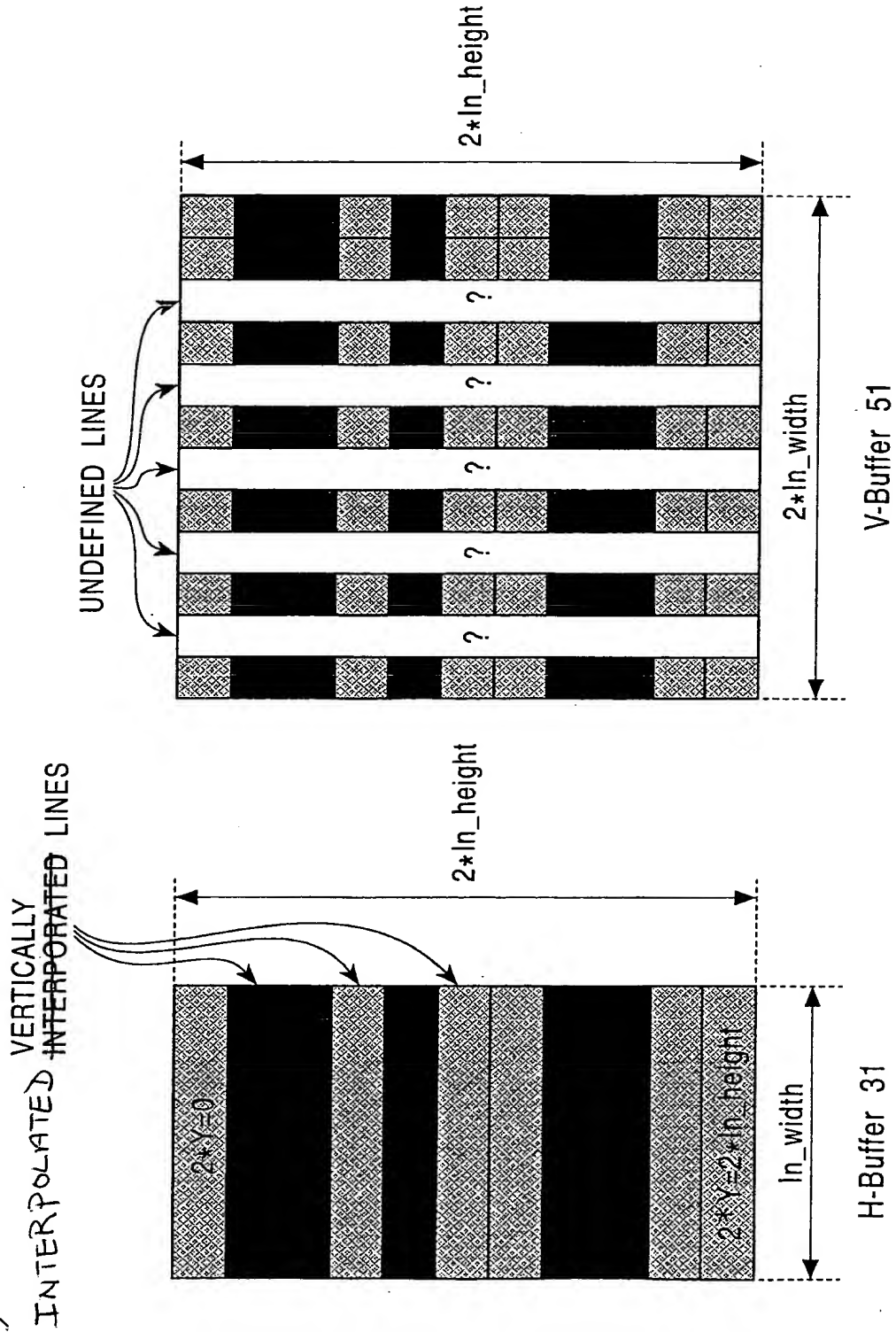
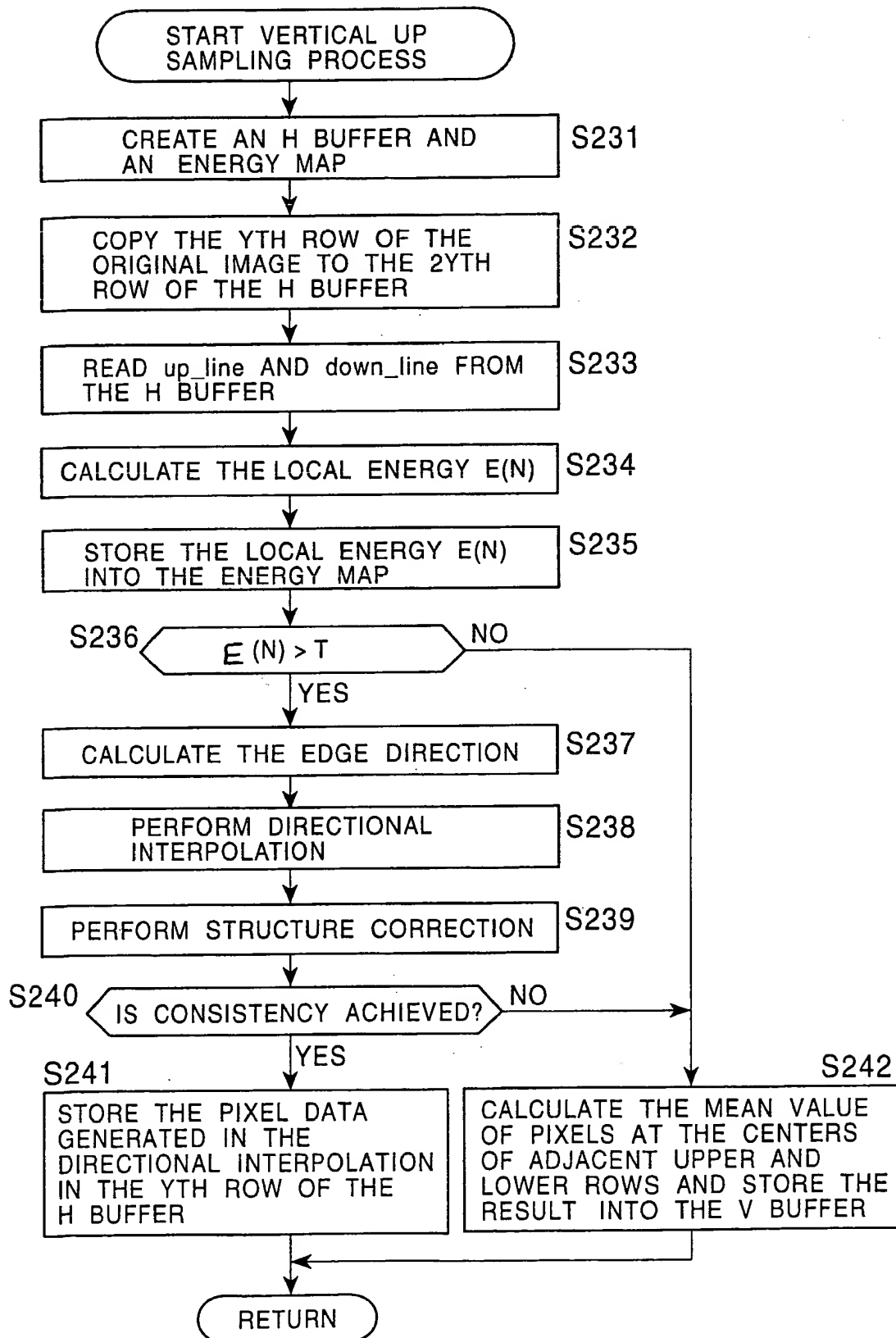


FIG. 35 PRIOR ART



APPENDIXIN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A linear reduction unit 16 reduces the resolution of the original image (that is, increases the resolution by factor of $[zz<1]$ $z<1$).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

First, in step S81, if a pixel (X, Y) satisfies the condition $1 < X < 2 \times \text{In_width} - 3$ and $1 < [Y/2]$ $Y < 2 \times \text{In_height} - 3$, a set of five pixels including the pixel (X, Y) at the center thereof is extracted from the Xth column of the H buffer 31. Then, in step S82, it is determined whether the energy $E(X, Y/2)$ of the pixel at the center of the set of five pixels is greater than the predetermined threshold value T. The energy $E(X, Y/2)$ has been calculated in step S42 in Fig. 8 and stored in the energy map in step S43.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 33, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the case where it is determined in steps S82 that the energy $E(X, Y/2)$ is equal to or smaller than the threshold value T, step S83 is skipped and the pixel [five pixels] (x, y) extracted in step S81 [are] is directly stored in the buffer.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 40, line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

[On the hand] On the other hand, if it is determined in step S128 that the value $H(N/2)$ is negative (consistency is not achieved), that value $H(N/2)$ is negative (consistency is not achieved), that is, if it is determined that the pixel value created in step S126 by means of the directional interpolation is not adequate, the process proceeds to step S130 to perform linear interpolation in a standard manner as in the case where it is determined in step S124 that the energy $E(N)$ is equal is equal to or smaller than the threshold value T . The pixel value is also stored in the 2X buffer 61.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 46, line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the case where it is determined in step S162 that the energy $E(X/2, Y)$ is equal to or smaller than the threshold value T , step S163 is skipped and the [five pixels] pixel (x, Y) extracted in step S161 [are] is directly stored in the buffer.